APPENDIX D

STANISLAUS RIVER PRIORITY SITES

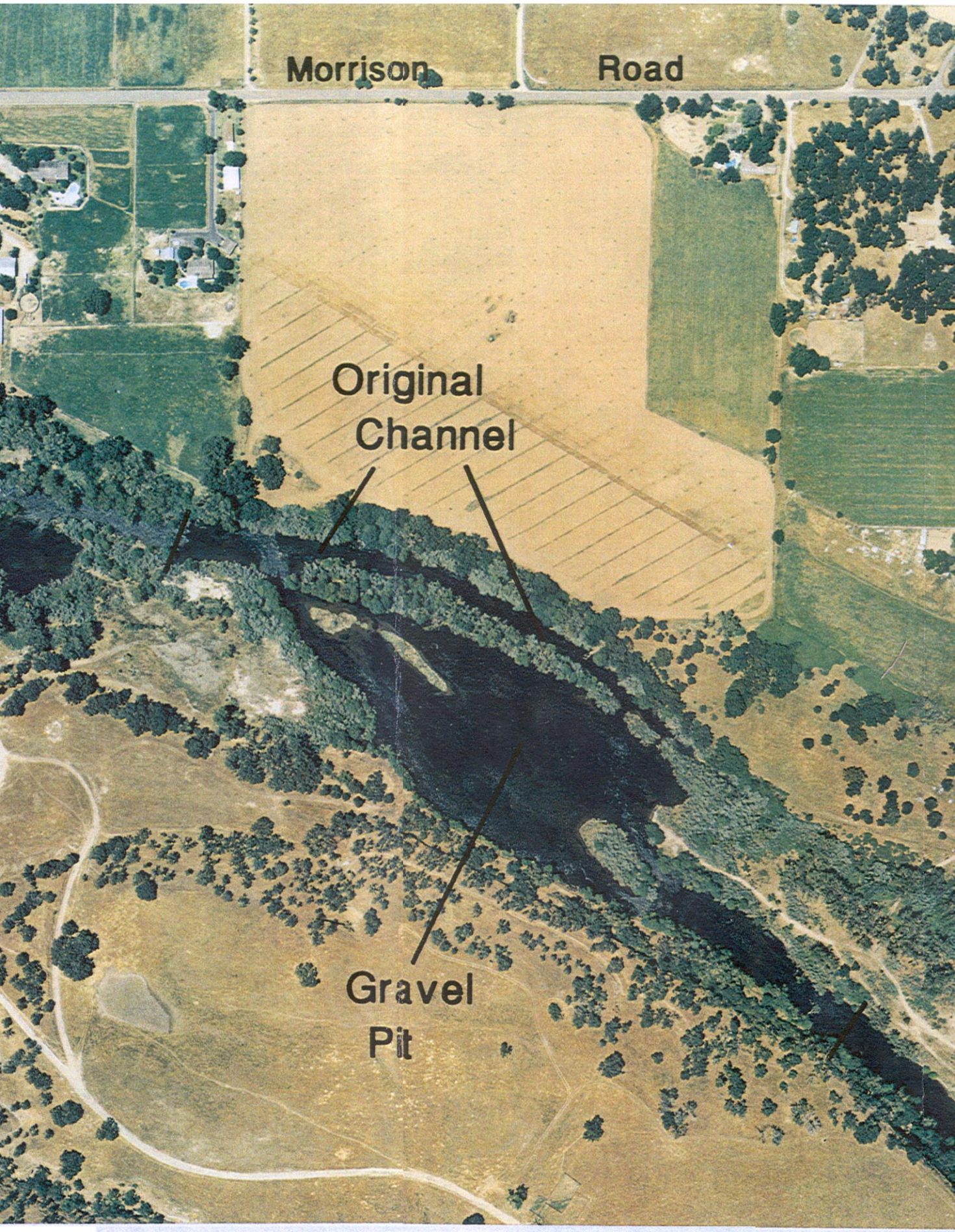
Stanislaus River
Mile 51.6-51.9
Willms

At this site a levee has breached and the river now flows through an abandoned gravel pit. The original channel, on the north side, still has significant flows. The pit is approximately 50 acres. It provides habitat for predators of out-migrating salmon smolts.

Repairs to the breaches in the levee are relatively minor in comparison to the large amount of predator habitat that could be isolated from the river channel. There is excellent riparian habitat on both sides of the original channel that would be preserved during and after construction.

This is a very high priority site. The actual construction costs will be minor compared to the benefits. However, the cost of preliminary engineering will be significant due to the size of the site, the dense vegetation, and the depth of the water.

The site has good access from both sides. The landowner on the north side has expressed a willingness to have work go forward.



Stanislaus River, Willms Site, River Mile 51.6–51.9

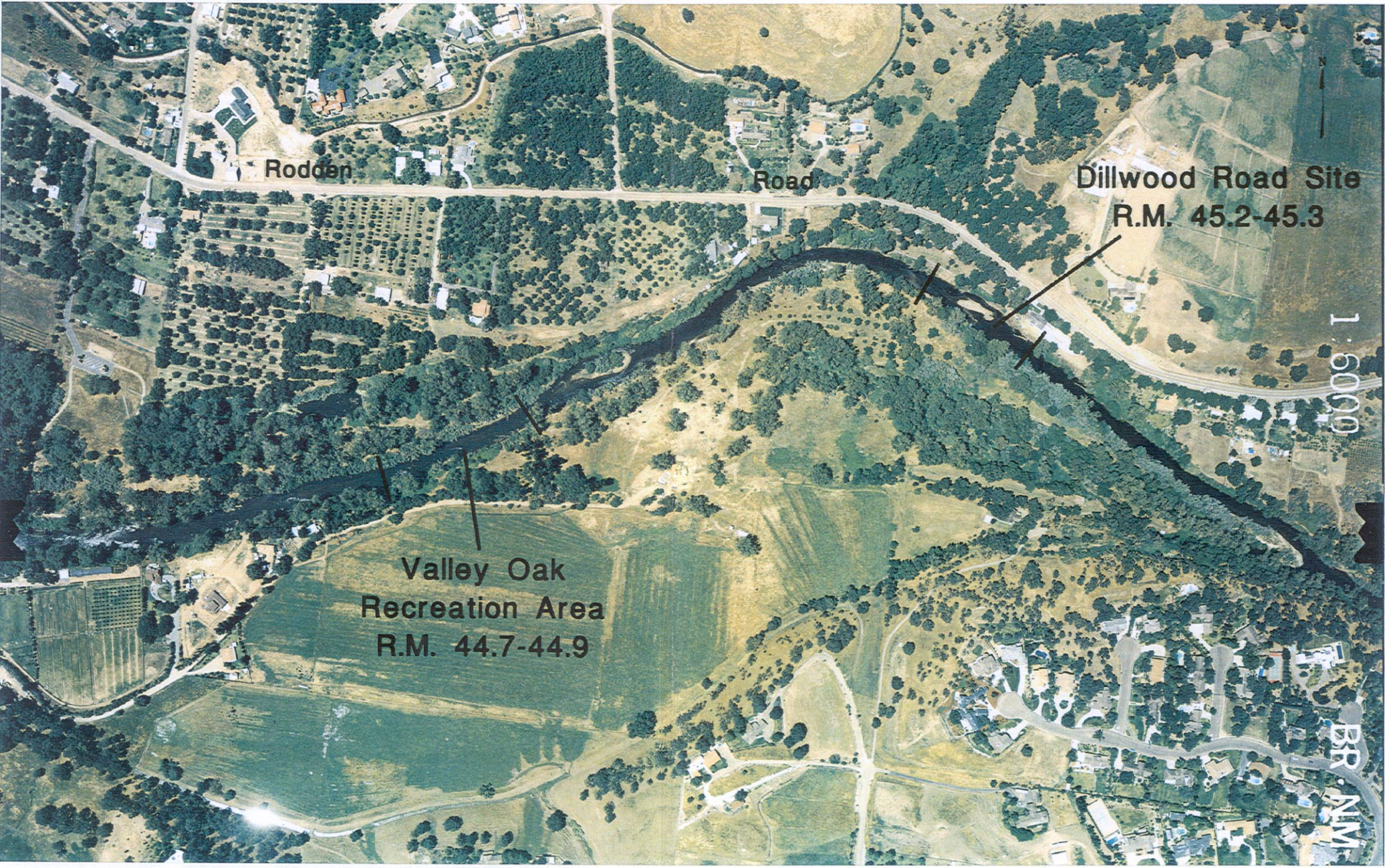
Stanislaus River
Miles 45.2-45.3 and 44.7-44.9
Dillwood Road and Valley Oak

Restoration of Dillwood Road site (Mile 45.2-45.3) would produce significant benefits at minimal cost. In the channel there are two gravel bars consisting of good spawning-size gravel. The material in these bars could be redistributed in the channel and made accessible to the salmon.

The site is between 300 and 400 feet long and has good drop for the creation of spawning velocities. There is good access from the north bank at the downstream end of the site. This site could be constructed in conjunction with the Valley Oak site immediately downstream.

The existing gravel at the Valley Oak site is too small and is silted in. The existing gravel would be excavated out and replaced with graded and washed spawning gravel. The site has good potential for restoration based on adequate width, drop, and length (600-700 feet). There is a pool at the downstream end to provide resting habitat. The site has good access across U.S. Corps of Engineers property on the north side.

Poaching could be a problem at this site. It is adjacent to the Corps' Valley Oak Recreation Area, a public use facility.



Stanislaus River, Valley Oak Recreation Area and Dillwood Road Site